

Notice of Allowability

Exr. Amdt.
R. Mack
4/13/05

Application No.

10/822,132

Examiner

Ricky L. Mack

Applicant(s)

NAGAOKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

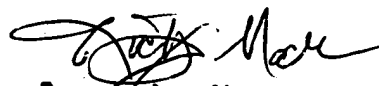
* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0404
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 0405
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


RICKY L. MACK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Altmiller on 4/11/05.

The application has been amended as follows (see pages 3 and 4):

Art Unit: 2873

2/14/05
4/13/05
Claim 1 (Twice Amended) A variable optical element comprising:

a first liquid member;

a second liquid member which is insoluble in the first liquid member;

a container which contains the first liquid member and the second liquid member;

an index for positioning the variable optical element according to a predetermined reference,

wherein an interfacial shape between the first liquid and the second liquid surface varies according to a voltage which is applied to the liquid members; and

the index is disposed such that a wave front aberration in the variable optical element is minimum equal to or less than a predetermined value under condition that the variable optical element is positioned according to the predetermined reference.

2/14/05
4/13/05
Claim 25 (Amended) A variable optical element comprising:

a first liquid member;

a second liquid member which is insoluble in the first liquid member;

a container which contains the first liquid member and the second liquid member;

an index for positioning the variable optical element according to a predetermined reference,

wherein an interfacial shape between the first liquid and the second liquid surface varies according to a voltage which is applied to the liquid members; and

the index is disposed such that a wave front aberration in the variable optical element is a minimum under the condition that the variable optical element is positioned according to the predetermined reference.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim(s), in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in claim(s) 1-25, an interfacial shape between a first liquid member and a second liquid member surface varies according to a voltage which is applied to the liquid members; and an index is disposed such that a wave front aberration in the variable optical element is equal to or less than a predetermined value under condition that the variable optical element is positioned according to a predetermined reference position, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references are cited for being a related (inventive entity/assignee) reference or for disclosing an optical device having two liquid optical members having a surface(s) positioned therebetween: Oaki et al. (5071229), Takahashi et al. (5150234) and the latter filed related Takeyama et al. (20040228003A1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricky L. Mack whose telephone number is (571) 272-2333. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30 AM to 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ricky L Mack
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873

RM
April 13, 2005